仲原椿

nakahara tsubaki

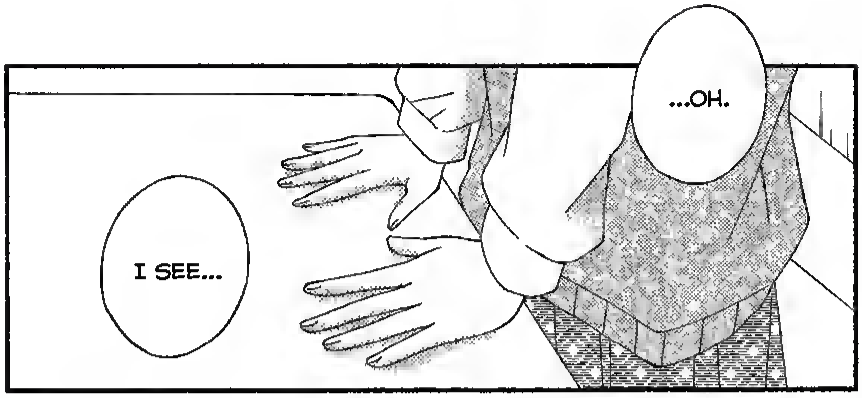
# ひみつ、ひとつ

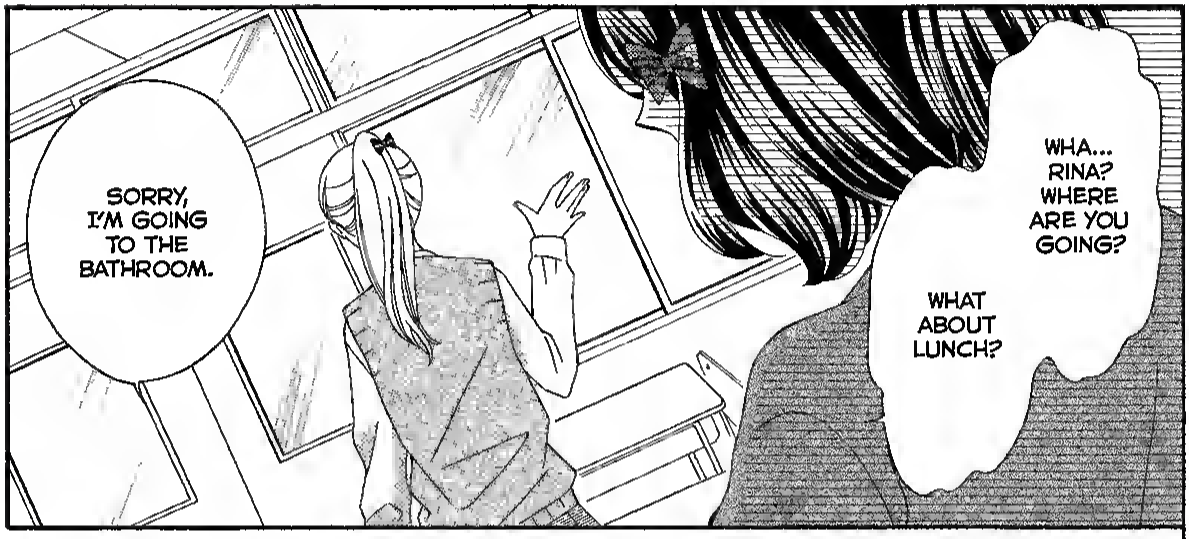
himitsu, hitotsu

...in secret.
by nakahara tsubaki

I FEEL LIKE MY BEST FRIEND HAS SUDDENLY ...BECOME REALLY CUTE
RINA?
STARE
!
RINA~
WHERE DO YOU WANNA HAVE LUNCH?
LATELY...
RINA~
Hey, what's wrong?
I FEEL LIKE HER AURA HAS CHANGED...
I MEAN, TOUKO HAS ALWAYS BEEN CUTE.
BUT...
SOMEHOW
TOUKO?
Y... YOU SEE...
EH?
TOUKO, DID SOMETHING HAPPEN TO YOU RECENTLY?

I...
Y'KNOW...
GOT A BOYFRIEND~...
I was gonna to tell you, but I couldn't find the right time...
BOYFRIEND?



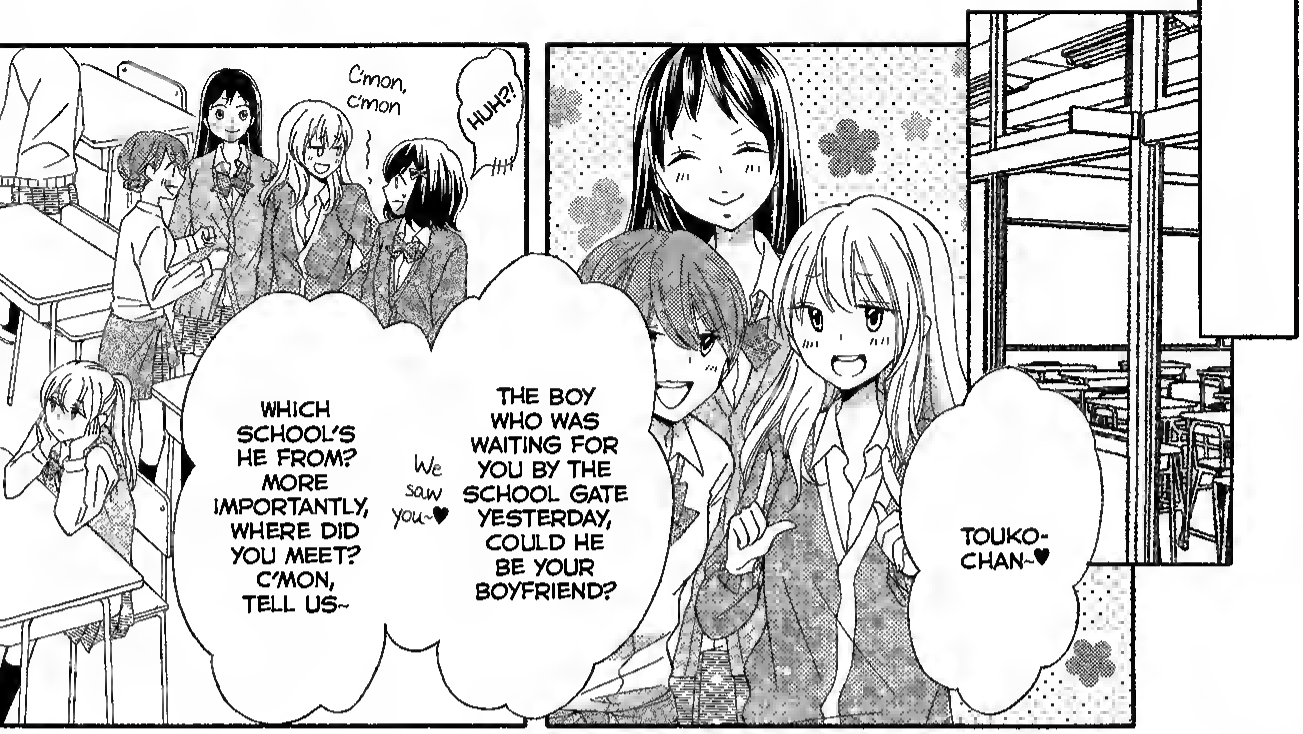



"BOYFRIEND"... WHAT'S UP WITH THAT?

WHO THE HELL IS HE? SINCE WHEN? IS THAT THE REASON SHE SUDDENLY SEEMS SO CUTE?

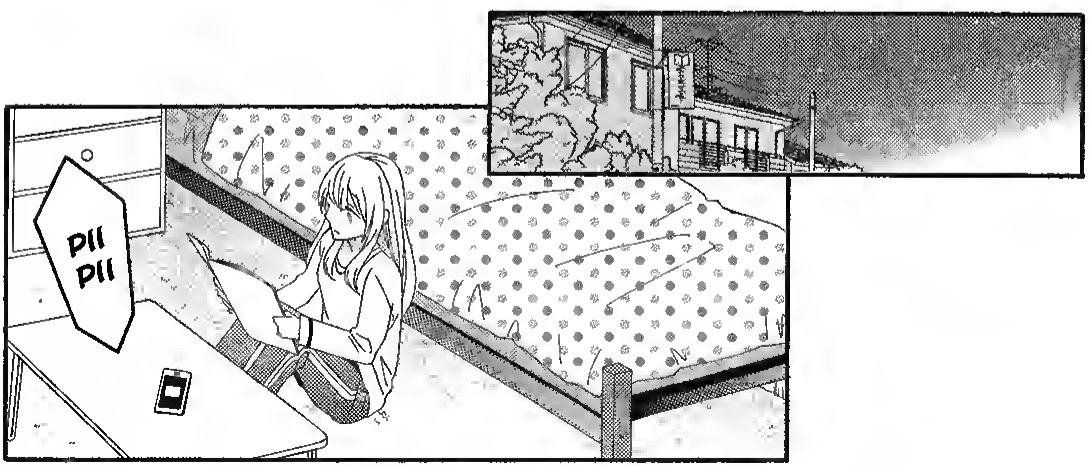
WHAT DOES THAT MEAN?

AND...

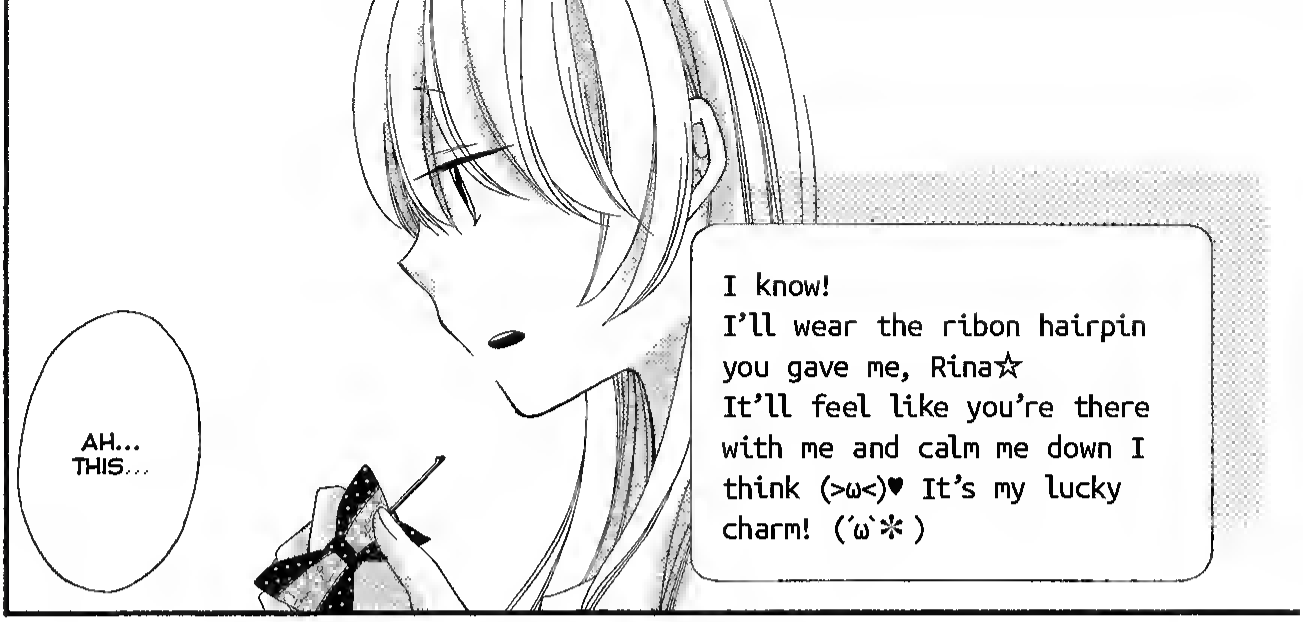

TOUKO-CHAN~♥
C'mon, c'mon
HUH?!
WHICH SCHOOL'S HE FROM? MORE IMPORTANTLY, WHERE DID YOU MEET? C'MON, TELL US~
We saw you~♥
THE BOY WHO WAS WAITING FOR YOU BY THE SCHOOL GATE YESTERDAY, COULD HE BE YOUR BOYFRIEND?

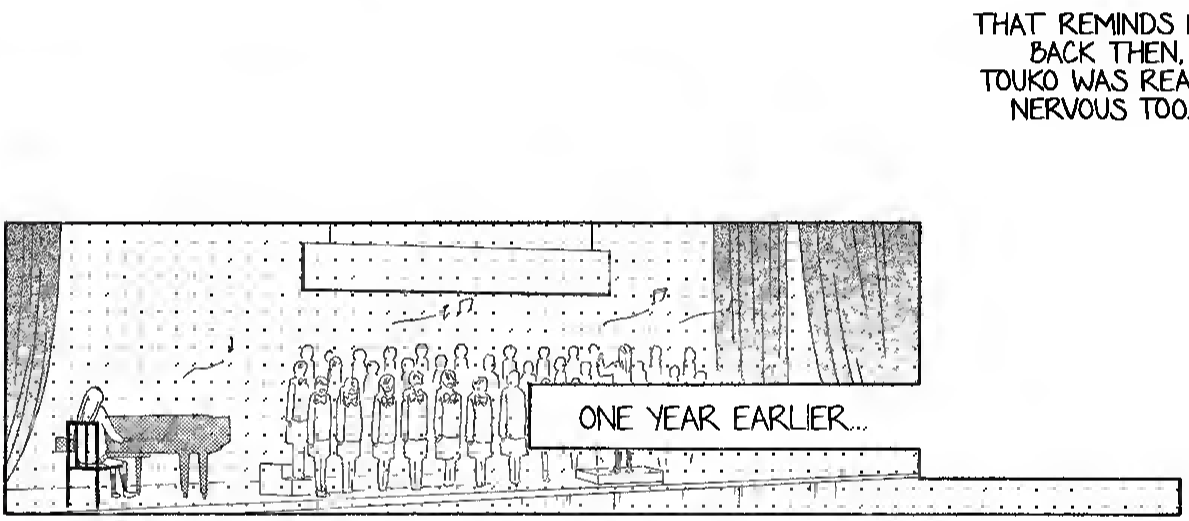
UHM... HE'S FROM N HIGH, AND WE GO TO THE SAME CRAM SCHOOL.
HUH?! IF HE'S FROM N HIGH, HE MUST BE REALLY SMART! IT'S LIKE, A REALLY HIGH LEVEL BOYS' SCHOOL!
For real?!
OH! OH! AND WHO WAS IT THAT CONFESSED?!
AH, HE DID...
kya
THAT'S GREAT~!! I'M SO JEALOUS~♥
Like, for real, we don't get to meet enough boys in a girls' school!
HEY, HEY! RINA, YOU'VE SEEN HIM, RIGHT?
Is he handsome?
He was far away, so we couldn't really see his face
HUH? NOT YET?
REALLY, THIS IS THE FIRST I'VE HEARD OF ANY OF THIS...
Ahaha
OH, REALLY?
That's unexpected

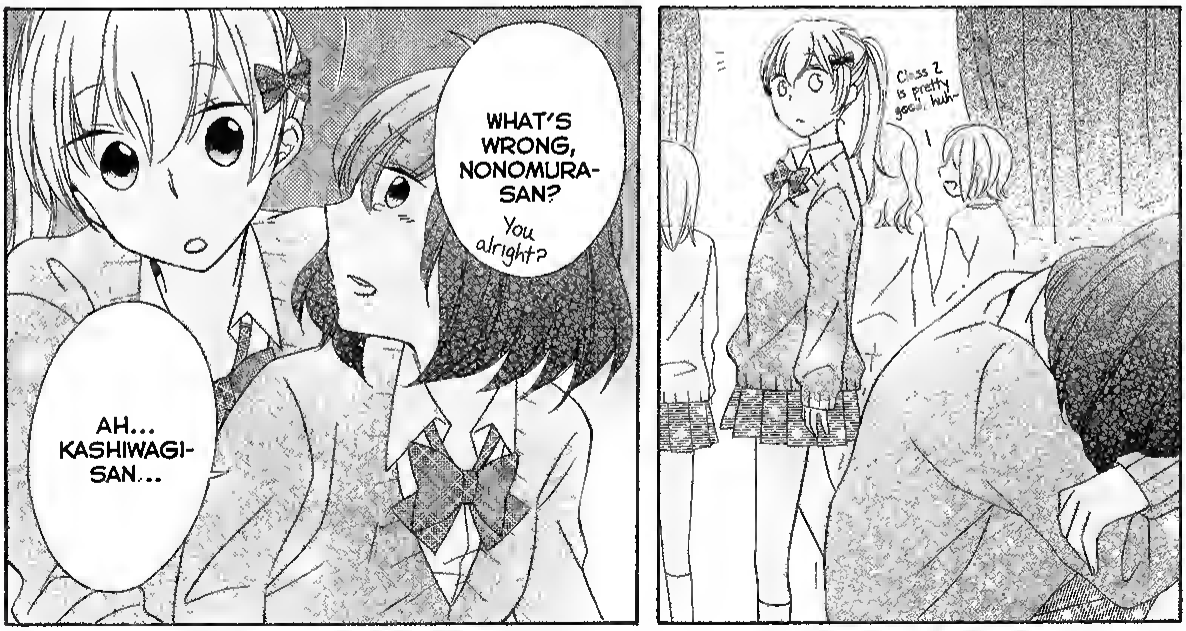
FOR SOME REASON...
I FEEL REALLY DEPRESSED...
IT'S NO GOOD...
YEAH...


PII PII

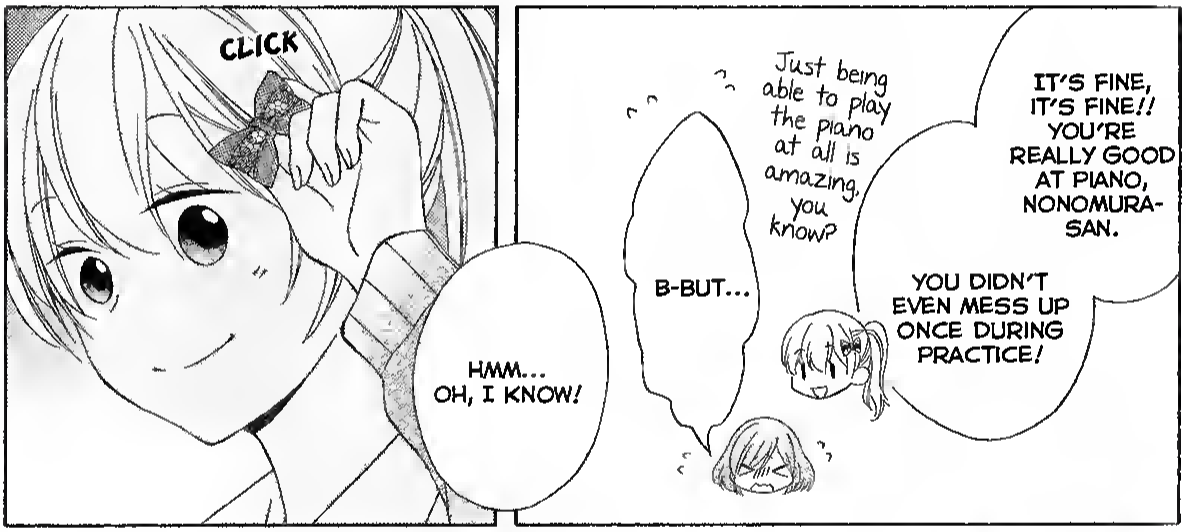
FIRST DATE...
Touko
Rina~! What should I do~? (+△+;)
TOUKO? I WONDER WHAT'S WRONG...
"What's up?"
Touko
I got invited on a date to see a movie tomorrow It's my first date so I have no idea what to do~!
!
PII PII
SIGH
SOMEHOW...
SHE SEEMS A LOT MORE EXCITED THAN WHEN SHE'S OUT WITH ME...
CLENCH
Touko
What should I wear?
A one-piece or something should be fine, shouldn't it?
Touko
A one-piece, huh? I'll go with that >///< I'm already feeling nervous! (';△;')
...
WHY AM I SO BOTHERED...
PII PII

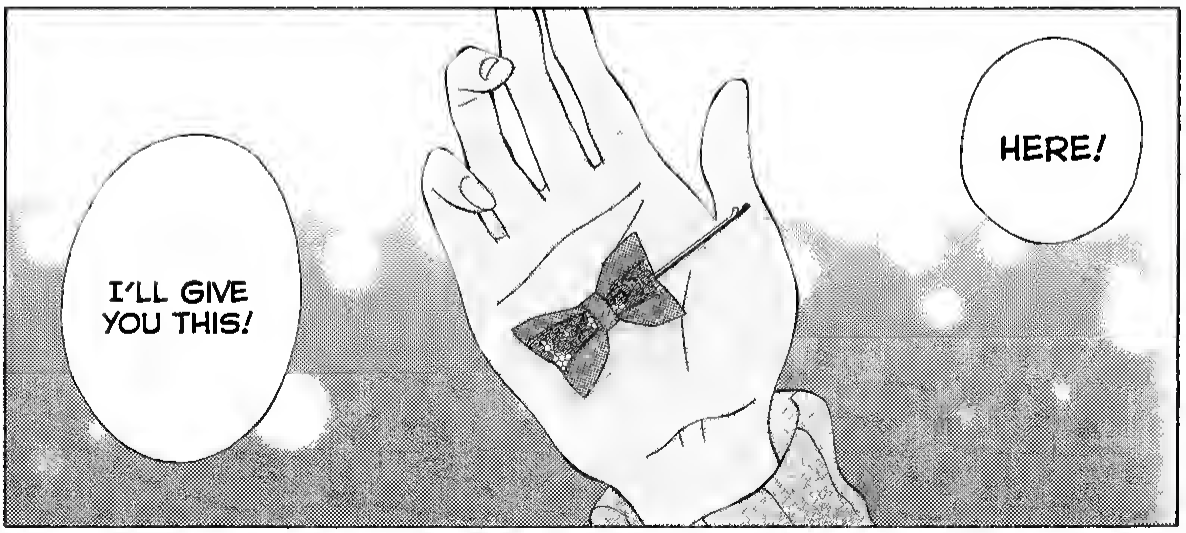

I know!
I'll wear the ribon hairpin you gave me, Rina☆
It'll feel like you're there with me and calm me down I think (>ω<)♥ It's my lucky charm! (´ω`*)
AH... THIS...


THAT REMINDS ME... BACK THEN, TOUKO WAS REALLY NERVOUS TOO...
ONE YEAR EARLIER...


WHAT'S WRONG, NONOMURA-SAN?
You alright?
AH... KASHIWAGI-SAN...
Class 2 is pretty good, huh-

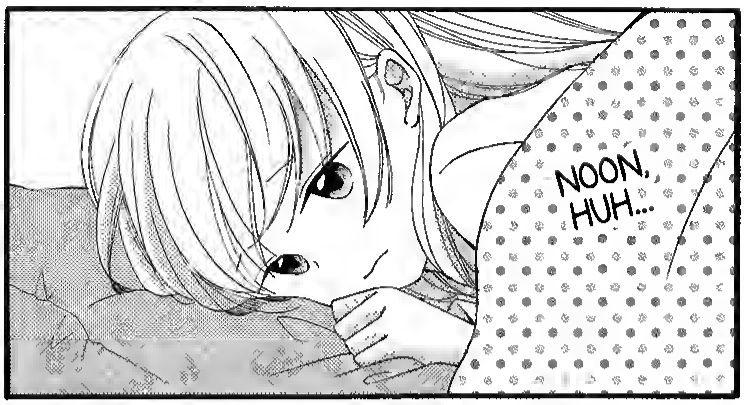
I-I KEEP THINKING I'M GONNA SCREW UP...
IT'S ALL I CAN THINK ABOUT...
Ugh... I wanna go home...
You don't have to apologize...
Whimper
I-I'M SORRY... I... HAVE REALLY BAD STAGEFRIGHT...
AND YET I AGREED TO PLAY THE PIANO... RIGHT NOW I'M SO NERVOUS I FEEL LIKE I'M GONNA THROW UP...

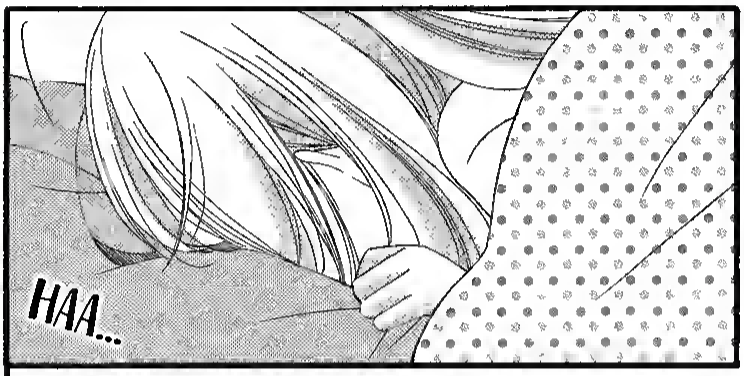

CLICK
HMM... OH, I KNOW!
B-BUT...
Just being able to play the piano at all is amazing, you know?
IT'S FINE, IT'S FINE!! YOU'RE REALLY GOOD AT PIANO, NONOMURA-SAN.
YOU DIDN'T EVEN MESS UP ONCE DURING PRACTICE!

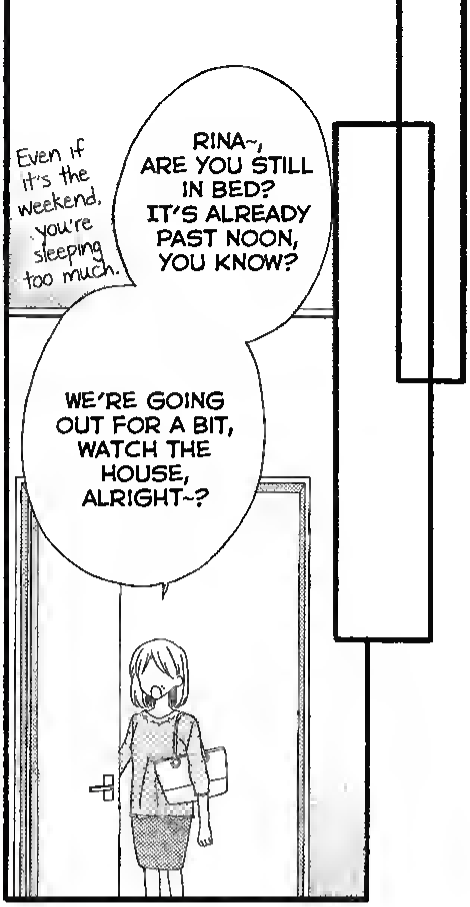

I'LL GIVE YOU THIS!
HERE!

YEAH! IT LOOKS GREAT!
EH...? BUT...
DON'T WORRY ABOUT IT! I HAVE ANOTHER ONE OF THESE.
So we'll match!
REALLY? THAT'S GREAT~
I THINK I FEEL A BIT BETTER NOW...
TH- THANKS.
THEN, ONE MORE THING!

I DON'T WANT HER TO WEAR IT ON HER DATE...





Even if it's the weekend, you're sleeping too much.
RINA~, ARE YOU STILL IN BED? IT'S ALREADY PAST NOON, YOU KNOW?
WE'RE GOING OUT FOR A BIT, WATCH THE HOUSE, ALRIGHT~?

tick

tick

TOUKO...

tick

tock

tock

I GUESS SHE'S ALREADY OUT ON HER DATE...

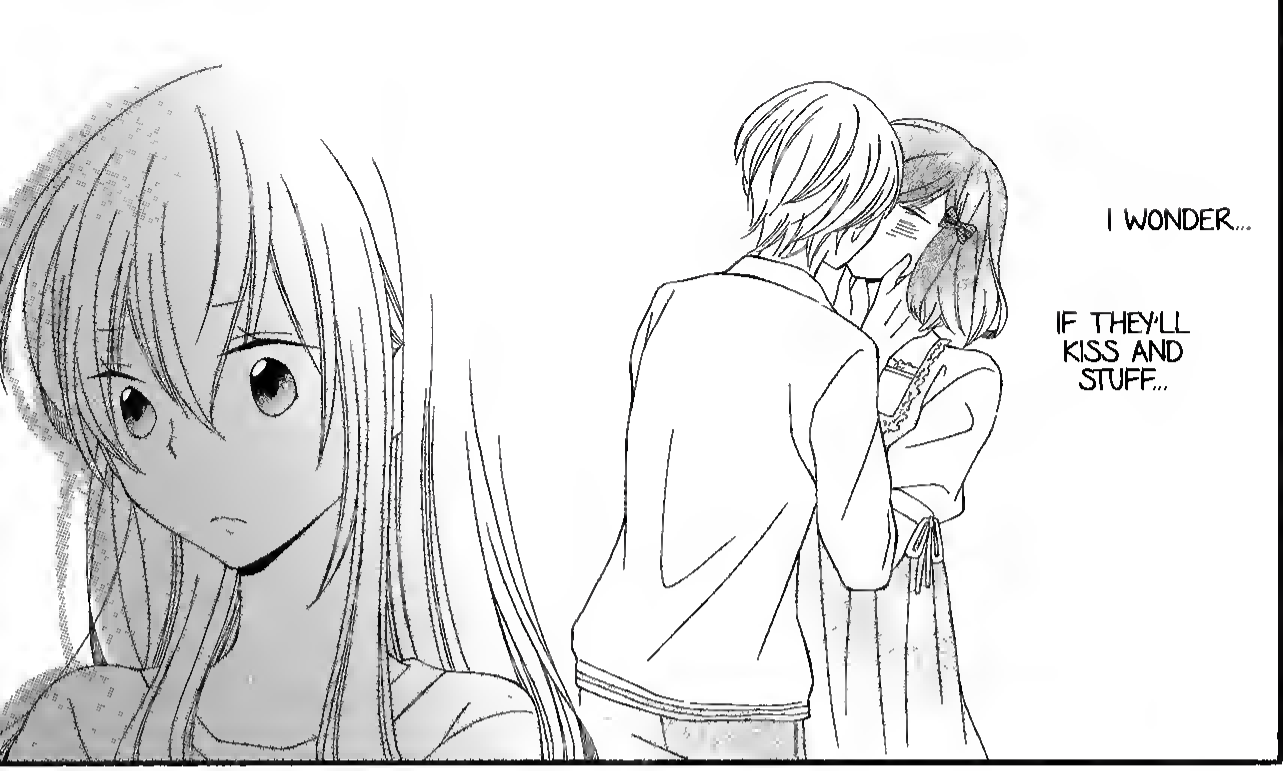
I WONDER WHAT SHE'S WEARING...

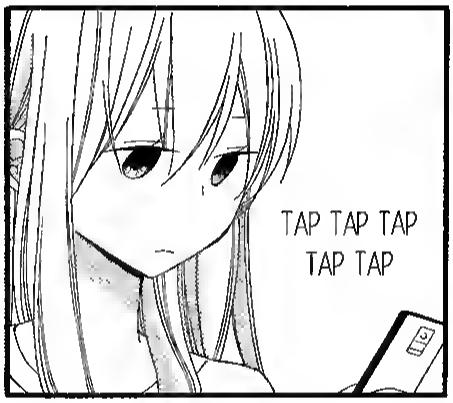
DID SHE END UP WEARING THE HAIRPIN...?

LIKE

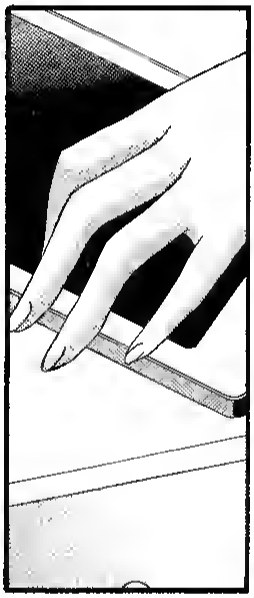
WHAT DO YOU EVEN DO ON A DATE...?

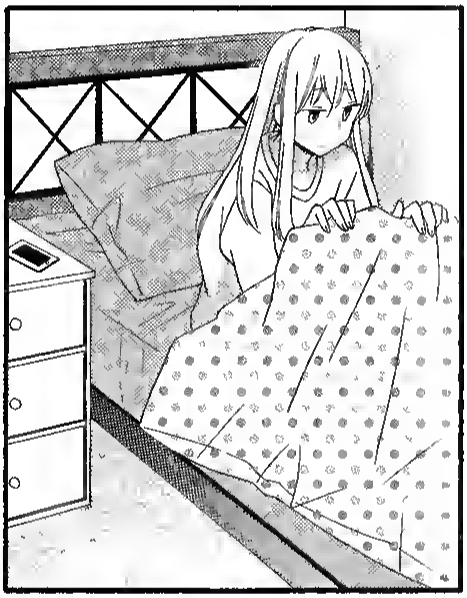
THIS SUCKS...

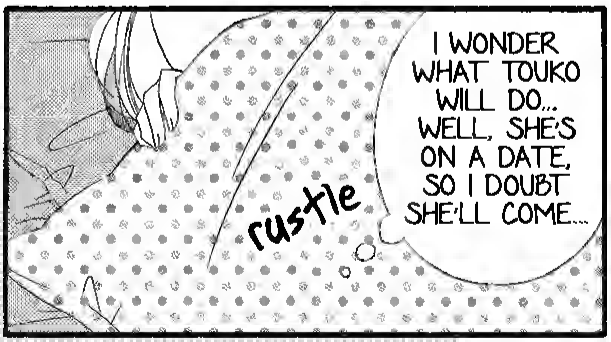

I WONDER...
IF THEY'LL KISS AND STUFF...

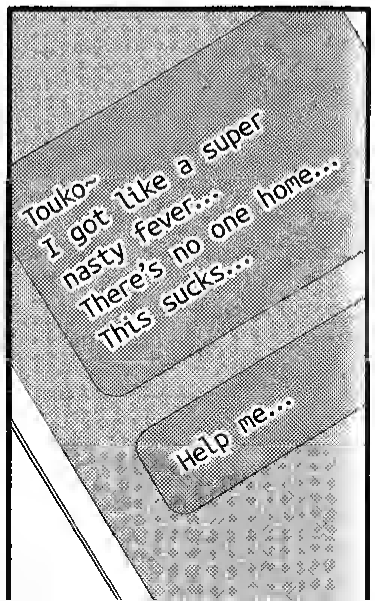

TAP TAP TAP
TAP TAP

TOSS





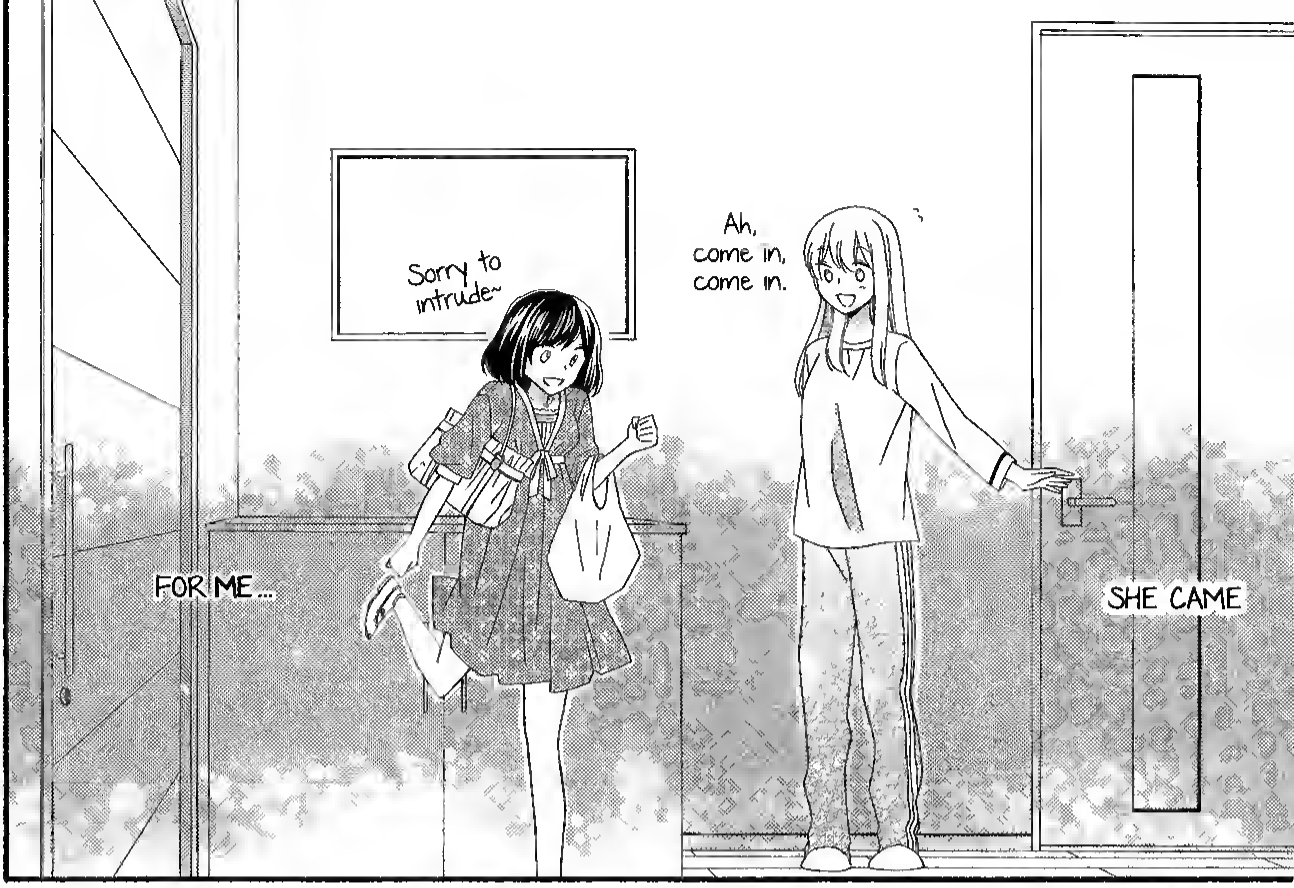

rustle
I WONDER WHAT TOUKO WILL DO... WELL, SHE'S ON A DATE, SO I DOUBT SHE'LL COME...


Touko-
I got like a super nasty fever...
There's no one home...
This sucks...
Help me...

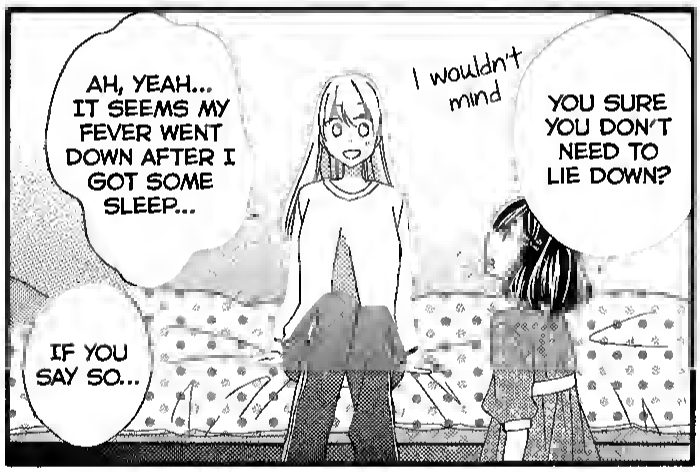
...WHATEVER...

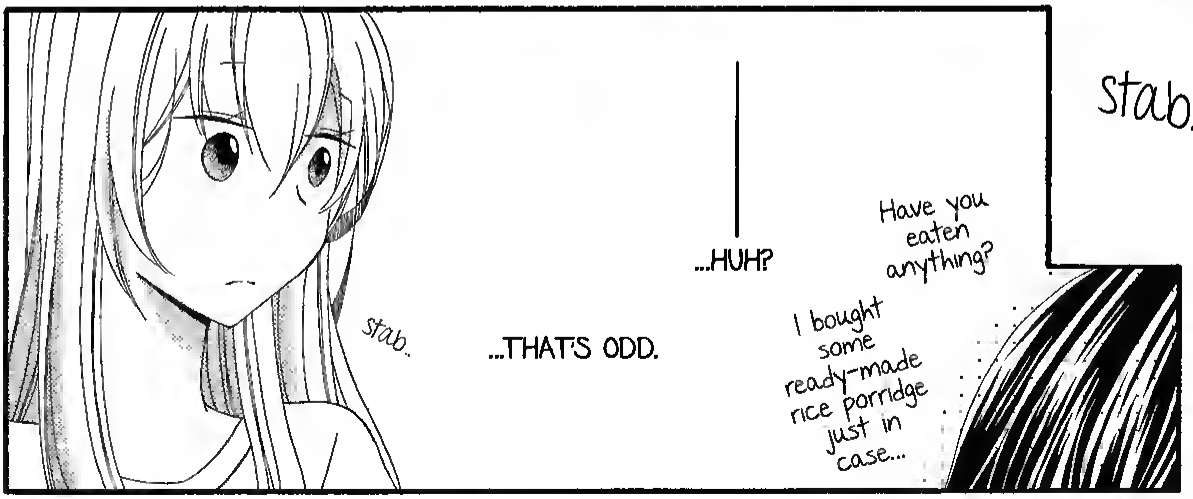
DING DONG
OPEN
YES, YES, I'M
DING DONG
C'mon already
Didn't they bring a key?
ARE MOM AND THE OTHERS BACK ALREADY?
tmmp
tmmp
tmmp
DING DONG DING DONG DING DONG DING
...UGH, WHAT THE HELL...
COMING...
HAA
RINA...! ARE YOU ALRIGHT?!
HAA

TO-TOUKO...
...WHY...?
YOU'RE KIDDING...
W-WHAT DO YOU MEAN "WHY"...? YOU SAID YOU HAD A FEVER... YOU WEREN'T ANSWERING MY LINE MESSAGES OR MY CALLS...
AND YOU SAID THAT NEITHER OF YOUR PARENTS WERE HOME, SO...
I WAS WORRIED...
HAA~~~
I'M SO GLAD... YOU'RE STILL ALIVE...
...
FUHA...
TOUKO...
CAME FOR ME...

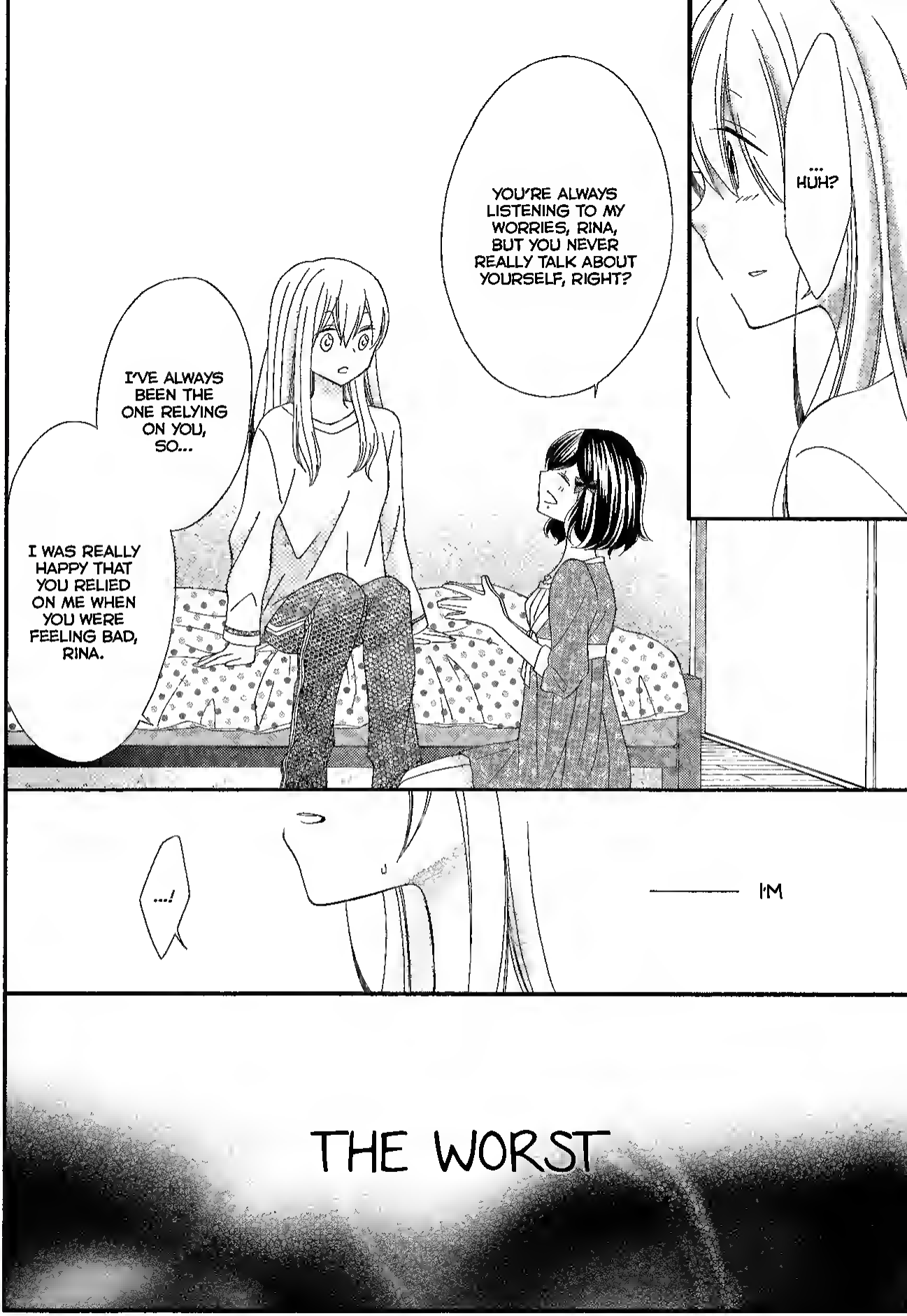

Sorry to intrude~
Ah, come in, come in.
FOR ME...
SHE CAME

thmp
Ah THAT'S RIGHT!
I DIDN'T KNOW WHAT YOU'D WANT, SO I BOUGHT A BUNCH OF THINGS.
POKKARI SWEAT


AH, YEAH... IT SEEMS MY FEVER WENT DOWN AFTER I GOT SOME SLEEP...
I wouldn't mind
YOU SURE YOU DON'T NEED TO LIE DOWN?
IF YOU SAY SO...


stab.
...THAT'S ODD.
...HUH?
Have you eaten anything?
I bought some ready-made rice porridge just in case...
stab...

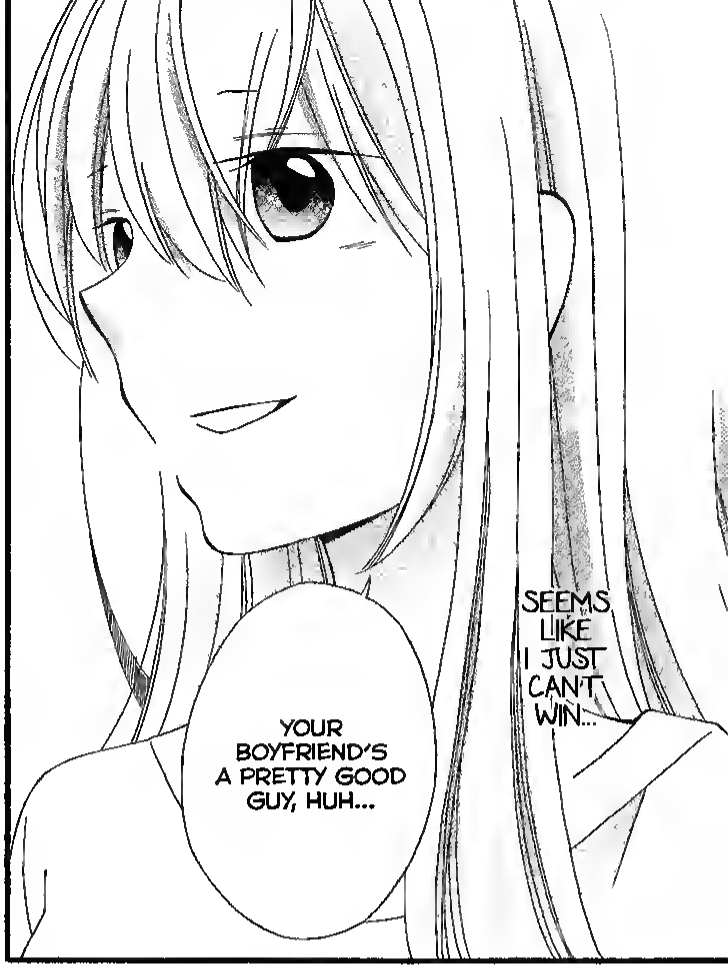
I SHOULD BE HAPPY THAT SHE CHOSE ME OVER HER BOYFRIEND...
MY CHEST HURTS SO MUCH MORE
THAN YESTERDAY...
BUT WHY?
HEY, RINA...
WHAT...
IT MIGHT BE HORRIBLE OF ME TO SAY THIS WHEN YOU HAVE A FEVER, BUT...
I FELT REALLY HAPPY YOU KNOW...
THE HELL AM I DOING...

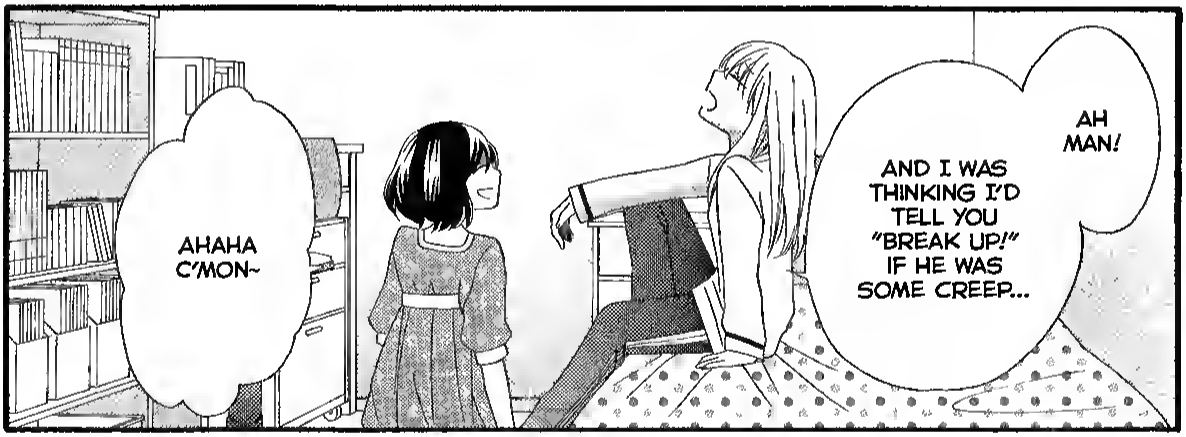

...
HUH?
YOU'RE ALWAYS LISTENING TO MY WORRIES, RINA, BUT YOU NEVER REALLY TALK ABOUT YOURSELF, RIGHT?
I'VE ALWAYS BEEN THE ONE RELYING ON YOU, SO...
I WAS REALLY HAPPY THAT YOU RELIED ON ME WHEN YOU WERE FEELING BAD, RINA.
...!
I'M
THE WORST

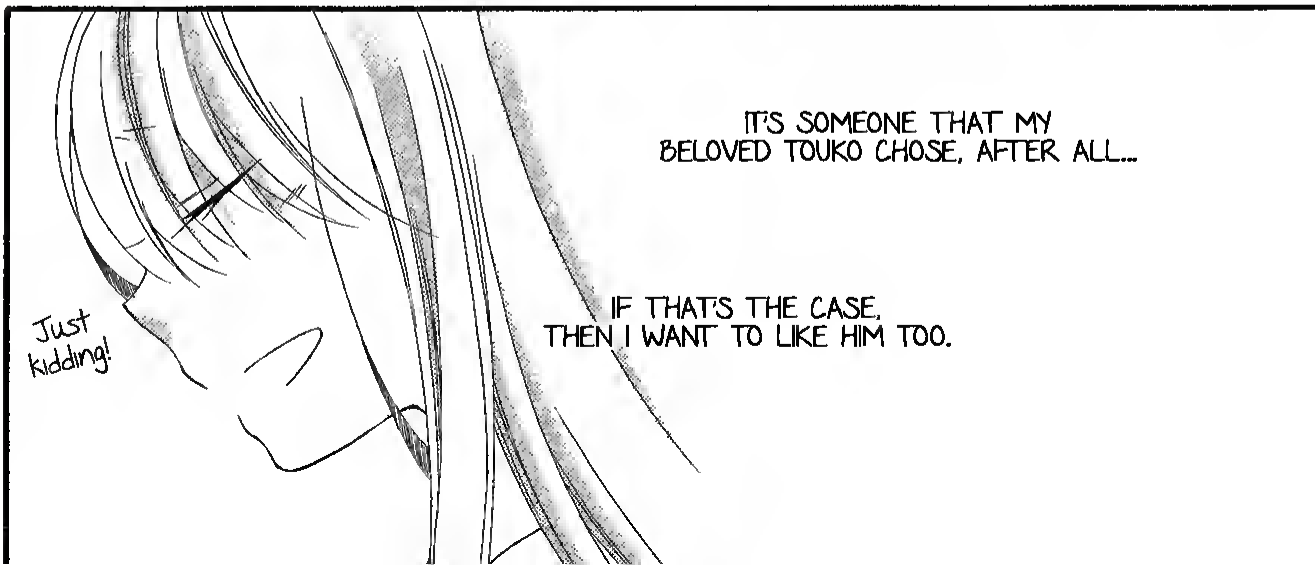
I FELT LIKE TOUKO MIGHT GET TAKEN AWAY BY SOME BOY I DIDN'T KNOW
AND I CHILDISHLY WANTED TO MONOPOLIZE HER, SO I GOT JEALOUS AND LIED...
I RUINED THE DAY THAT SOMEONE I LOVE HAD BEEN LOOKING FORWARD TO.
...I RUINED YOUR DATE...
I'M SORRY...
IT'S FINE! DON'T WORRY ABOUT STUFF LIKE THAT WHEN YOU'RE FEELING SICK.
HE SAID: "DON'T WORRY ABOUT ME. GO BE BY HER SIDE".
OH MAN...

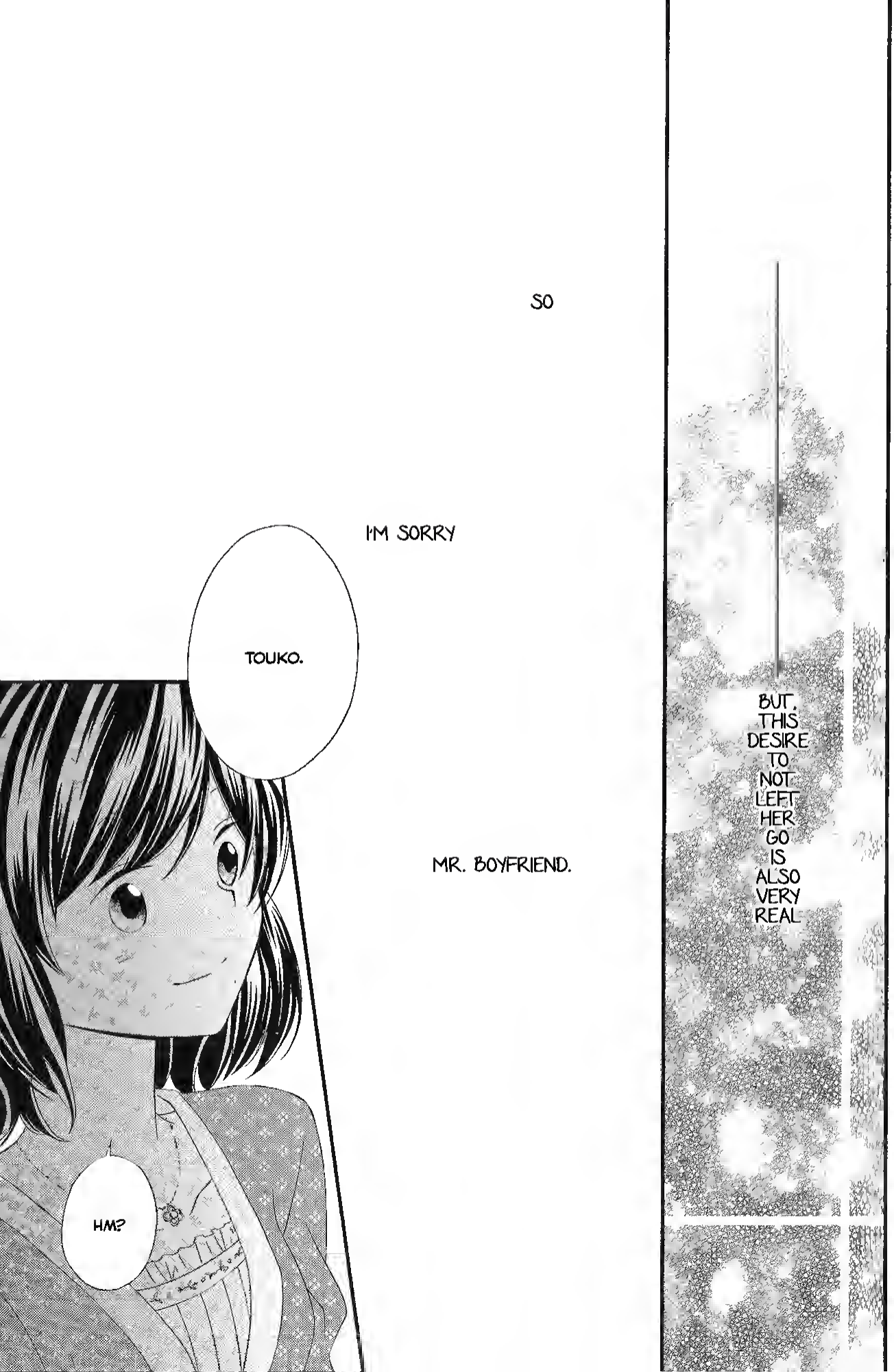
...!

YEAH!
I'LL PROPERLY INTRODUCE YOU NEXT TIME!


SEEMS LIKE I JUST CAN'T WIN...
YOUR BOYFRIEND'S A PRETTY GOOD GUY, HUH...


AHAHA C'MON~
AND I WAS THINKING I'D TELL YOU "BREAK UP!" IF HE WAS SOME CREEP...
AH MAN!


Just kidding!
IF THAT'S THE CASE, THEN I WANT TO LIKE HIM TOO.
IT'S SOMEONE THAT MY BELOVED TOUKO CHOSE, AFTER ALL...


SO
I'M SORRY
TOUKO.
MR. BOYFRIEND.
HM?
BUT, THIS DESIRE TO NOT LET HER GO IS ALSO VERY REAL

...!
I'M SORRY.
I LOVE YOU
TOUKO

LET ME HAVE
JUST ONE SECRET...

...I'M SORRY.
sniffle
RINA...
ONE SECRET...
JEEZ...
THIS WILL HAVE TO BE OUR SECRET, OKAY...?
FOR NOW, THIS IS...

...in secret.

# CREDITS

## HIMITSU HITOTSU
BY NAKAHARA TSUBAKI

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